EN ROUTE TO THE

KLONDIKE

A SERIES OF

PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS

CHILKOOT PASS
SKAGUAY TRAIL
LAKE LINDERMAN
LAKE BENNETT

Part VI.

ST. MICHAELS
DAWSON CITY
FORTY MILE CREEK
YUKON RIVER

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CONTENTS

HYDRAULIC MINING
At Silver Bow Basin.

CITY OF JUNEAU
Principal Port of Alaska.

A LOG CABIN CHURCH
At One Time a Saloon.

TAKING ICE ABOARD
In Takou Inlet.

MIDNIGHT EDGECOMB
A Magnificent Scene

MEDIAMANTLA
Owned by Indians.

THE PINNACLE RANGE
A View from Sitka.

INDIAN AVENUE
A Peaceful Quarter.

CITY OF SITKA
The Capital of Alaska.

SITKA AT NIGHT
Photographed from the Harbor.

THE GREEK CHURCH
A Beautiful Interior.

A FINE DRIVEWAY
Near the City.

FORT WRANGLE
Sailing for the North.

THE MUIR GLACIER
For Above Sea Level.

ANOTHER VIEW
From the Steamer's Deck.

TOTEM POLES
At Kasaan, Alaska.

IN WRANGLE NARROWS
When the Water is Calm.

THE GRAVE OF LUCK-SHAW
A Famous Tagish Chief.

SOME INDIAN CABINS
At Yaas Bay.

NATIVE SCHOOL CHILDREN
Off for Pennsylvania.

INDIAN MERCHANTS
At the Treadwell Mines.

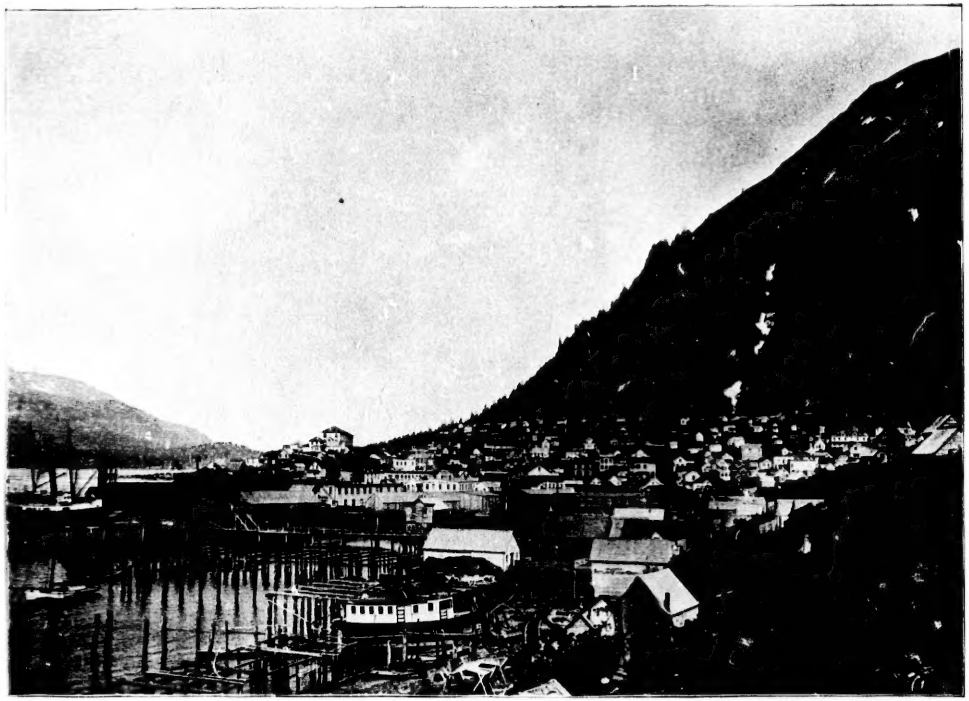
REINDEER AT SEATTLE
U. S. Relief Expedition.

LAPLANDERS AND CHILDREN
Reindeer Attendants.

HOME FROM THE BLINDING
A Popular Welcome.

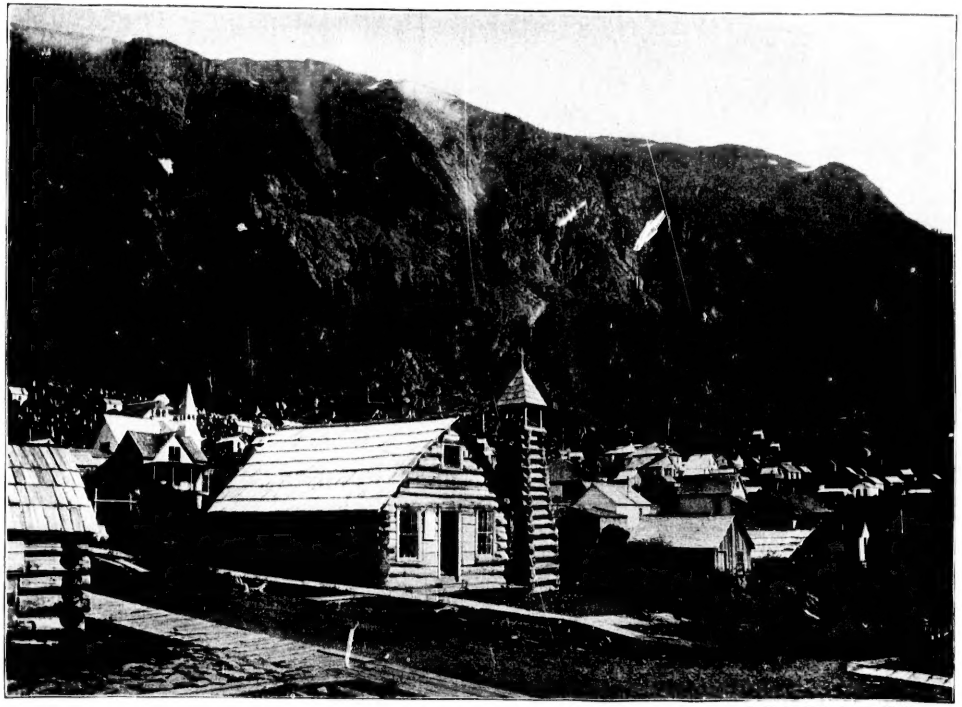
La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

HYDRAULIC MINING, SILVER BOW BASIN.—Four miles from Juneau, at the head of Gold Creek, lies Silver Bow Basin, where the first quartz discoveries where made by Juneau and Harris. Here the development of mineral properties has been steadily proceeding, with most encouraging results. Much of the ore is what is termed "strictly free milling"—no concentrators being used; and an unfailing water supply enables work to be carried on all the year round. The lode is located continuously from two to three claims in width, for a distance of over six miles with surface croppings all the way. Following still farther east locations have been made along high ranges through intervening valleys and over ridges to Takou Inlet, a distance of fully eight miles.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

JUNEAU.—This is the largest town in Alaska, and is situated at the base of Juneau mountain, upon a narrow shelf of ground which seems to have been formed by landslides from the mountain side. It is increasing in extent—being built over the water and presenting a very strange and picturesque appearance between the sea and the precipitous snow-seamed mountain. It was first settled in 1880 by Joseph Juneau and a party of prospectors from Sitka, who were seeking the mineral belt in the direction indicated by Professor Muir. Camping on the present site of the town, they found rich placers and promising ledges in the vicinity. On their return to Sitka with news of this discovery a rush was made, and the town rapidly developed.

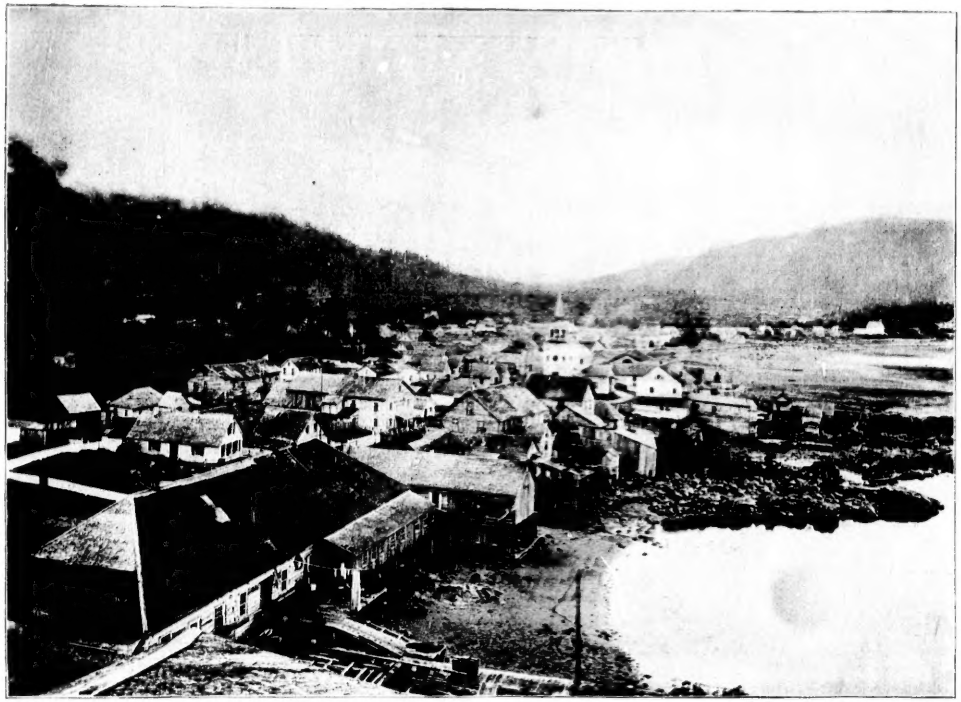


La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

LOG CABIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JUNEAU.—One of the glories of Alaska has been the earnest work done in the cause of religion. A unique Presbyterian church building is here shown in the foreground, while a more modern Episcopal structure is seen on the left in the background. There is also a prosperous Greek church here. The log cabin church has long been famous as a picturesque landmark, but its days are numbered, and a new building will soon replace it. It is built entirely of great, rough hewn logs, and was one of the first miners' homes erected in Juneau. For a number of years unoccupied, it was later used as a lodging house, a blacksmith shop, and, it is said, also as a saloon.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

STEAMER QUEEN TAKING ICE, TAKOU INLET.—In the summer, during the excursion season, immense fields of floating ice are oftentimes met with, and will always be found in the neighborhood of the great glaciers. It is from these floating ice fields that the steamers secure their supply for table use and refrigeration. The method employed is here shown—a huge block being taken in over the ship's side. The great net which is used in handling all sorts of merchandise is submerged beneath a cake of ice, a rope with hook is lowered, attached to the net, and the ice is then lifted from the water by the donkey engine in the usual way. The ice, although floating in salt water, is all breakage from the great glaciers, and it is unsurpassed for table use.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

SITKA, ALASKA.—In 1880 gold was discovered in the vicinity of Juneau, but the first discovery of gold in this part of Alaska was made near Sitka in 1873. Considerable excitement followed, and miners from the Cassiar regions in British Columbia and the northwest territory began to invade the southeastern coast of Alaska, and prospecting was actively prosecuted. Since then the growth of Sitka has been steadily progressing, and instead of assuming the proportions of a big city of mushroom growth, its life is everything that could be wished in the way of building up a representative city, and it thoroughly merits the honor of being the capital city of Alaska.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

SITKA AT NIGHT.—This photograph was taken at 9:30 P. M. It pictures a very busy part of the town, where shipping is the main feature. The dark wooden structure, from which the pier proceeds, is the United States naval store house. Sitka is situated on Baranof Island. It was long the headquarters of the Russian-American Fur Company, and the capital of Russian-America, then called New Archangel. When Alaska was ceded to the United States, Sitka was a collection of log huts, about one hundred in number. Its inhabitants are mostly Creoles. The rainfall at Sitka is said to be greater than in any section of the world outside of the tropics.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

INDIAN AVENUE, SITKA.—The store of the Sitka Trading Company shown in the photograph is a well known trading post and is popular with the Indians. While awaiting their turn to do business with the proprietor of the store the Indians sit about on the sidewalk in gloomy silence, which is characteristic of native tribes in these parts. In the Sitka district the magnificent forests furnish fields for lumbering as an industry, but in the barren ice north the occupation of the Indian is to fight and trap the the bear, the fox, the otter and the other animals whose fur will bring a price in the markets of the world. Salmon canning is a great industry in some parts.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

A DRIVEWAY NEAR SITKA.—In the neighborhood of Sitka one can find some of the prettiest scenery and some of the wildest scenery imaginable. When the weather is fine, delightful excursions are in order, and the forest lends itself to the most enjoyable of picnics. Valuable lumber districts cover great sections of the islands and southern portions of the mainland of Alaska and the mountain ranges, and the lumber trade must soon prove one of the chief industries of Alaska. Of late, however, the other industries of Alaska have sunk out of sight because of the gold fields excitement. When travelers were asked two or three years ago what were the principal pursuits in Alaska they replied that fishing and hunting were, but things have changed since then.

La Roche. Photo, Seattle, Wash.

INTERIOR OF THE GREEK CHURCH AT SITKA.—The most conspicuous object in the town is probably the Greek church. It is built in the form of a Greek cross; has an emerald dome over the center and a bell-tower surmounted by a cupola. The interior is a mass of gold and silver; the wood work is handsomely carved and richly gilded. It is the most ancient and interesting of the three Greek churches in the United States. Alaska having belonged to Russia, accounts for the existence of a Greek church in Sitka, the inhabitants of which soon developed a taste for the Christian religion as taught by the Russian missionaries who went into Russian-America and established mission stations at various points.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

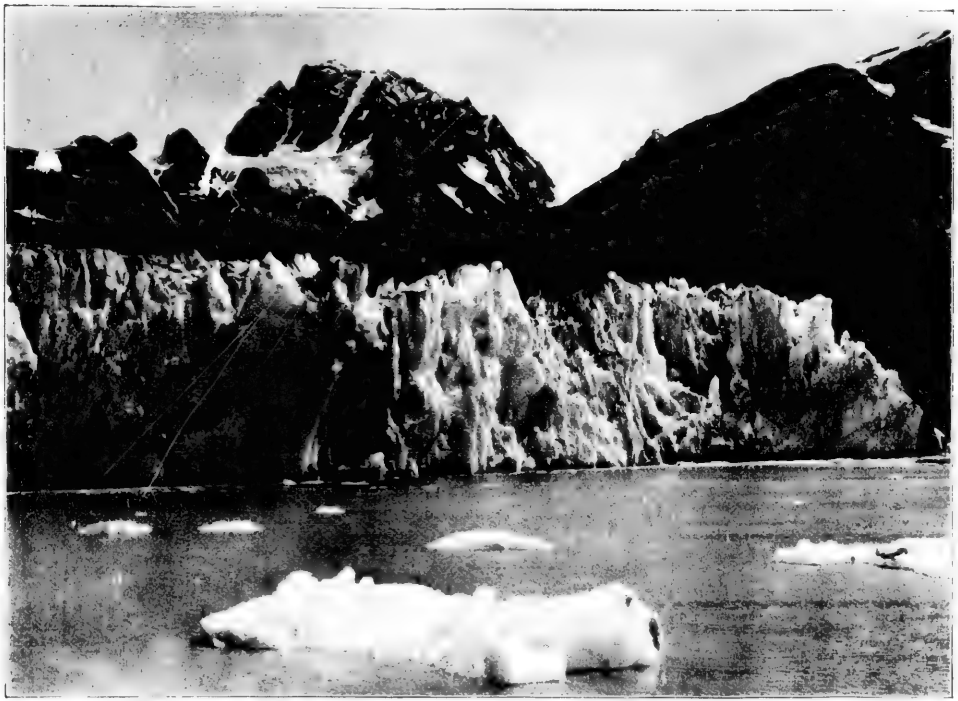
MOUNT EDGECOMB.—This mountain is at the southern extremity of the island, in front of the bay of Sitka. Vessels northward bound follow the channel dividing the island from the larger Baranof island on which is the city of Sitka. There is magnificent scenery in all directions for miles around; but the great snow-capped Mount Edgecomb towers into the sky and rears its commanding head like a giant sentinel in charge of a vast region of natural beauty and massive grandeur. From the first island in the Prince of Wales Archipelago to Mount St. Elias, the many islands and the strip of mainland forming the southeastern part of Alaska, consist of never ending variety and surpassing beauty.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

THE PINNACLE RANGE.—This magnificent range of mountains was photographed from the city of Sitka. When king frost reigns with undisputed sway, the white coated monsters stand out in wondrous beauty forever silently and unceasingly performing their duty as geographical landmarks, dividers of territory, or at least monuments to the wonders of nature. In 1867, when the United States government paid Russia $7,200,000 for the territory of Alaska, many people looked upon the deal as being foolish and a waste of money, for which comparatively no return seemed likely. Already Alaska has paid back her purchase money four times over in gold alone.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

MUIR GLACIER, ALASKA.—This photograph was taken from an elevation of 1,800 feet. No glacier is more popular among tourists than the Muir. It has a frontage of 9,000 feet, and an average height of 200 feet. The icy field tributary covers over 300 square miles. Its daily movement is about forty feet, pieces breaking off and falling into the water below with the crash of thunder. The common rate of flow of the Alpine glaciers is from ten to twenty inches a day in summer, and about half that in winter. A glacier usually carries with it accumulations of stones and dirt called moraines, which are designated according to their position.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

MUIR GLACIER—ANOTHER VIEW.—This is as it was seen from the deck of the steamer Queen, and gives one a good impression of the glacier as it appears from a front view. The glacier proper consists of solid ice, deeply crevassed, where broken up by irregularities in the slope or direction of its path. The geological theory of a glacier is that large parts of the frigid and temperate zones were covered with ice during the glacial or ice period, and that by the agency of this ice the loose materials of the earth's surface, called drift or diluvium, were transported and accumulated. There is no country in the world where one has a better opportunity to study and theorize on glaciers.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

IN WRANGELL NARROWS.—Steaming at the flood through these Narrows seems like the passage of a chain of lovely lakes. The shores here are well wooded and in places there are vistas of lawn like grass. Farther on the scenery becomes of a more impressive character, the mountains varied and beautiful in outline and covered with snow. The first glaciers appear here, and in the summer fields of floating ice. The Le Conte glacier high upon the mountain side, the larger Patterson glacier and the Baird are passed in turn. After steaming through the long Stephens passage, bounded on the west by Admiralty Island with its Snow mountains and enormous ledges of gold bearing quartz, the traveler reaches Takou Inlet.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

FORT WRANGEL.—The fort is near the mainland, one hundred and thirty miles north of the southern boundary line of Alaska. It was at one time a metropolis of the Cassiar mining district and the busiest town in Alaska. The miners who ascended the Stickeen River each spring, to the number of four thousand, returned in the autumn, in good seasons, with an average of $1,500 each. The government buildings, costing many thousands of dollars, were twenty years ago sold for a few hundred, and long since fell into disuse and decay. Wrangell, however, is now profiting by the universal Klondike excitement and coming again into prominence with a certainty of speedy and permanent development as a starting point to the gold fields.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

METLAKAHTLA.—This progressive little city is situated on the east side of Annette Island. It is one of the first ports of call on the southeast coast of Alaska. It is owned and governed entirely by Indians, and perhaps there is no place in the world with so remarkable a history. The ancestors of the present inhabitants, some forty years ago, were blood-thirsty savages. Now we find their descendants with peaceable natures and a wonderful adaptability to modern civilization and its arts. Not only have they municipal government and a thriving little city, but a Christian spirit guides them in all they do. Forty years ago it was dangerous for a white man to put his foot ashore.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

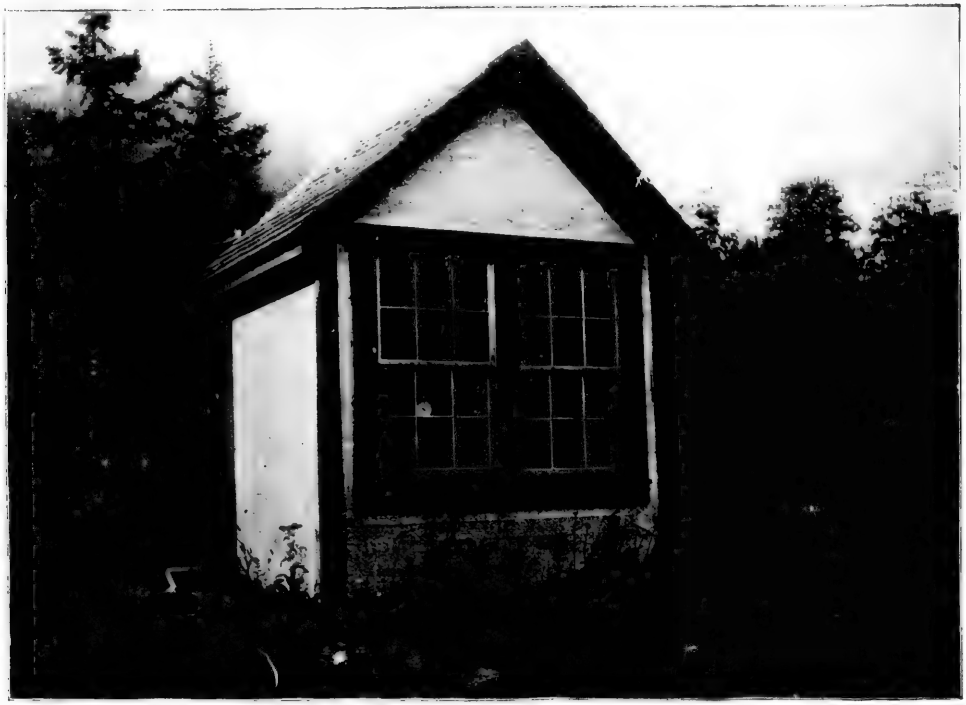
TOTEMS AT KASA-AN, ALASKA.—About twenty-five miles from Metlakahtla is the quaint Indian town of Kasa-an, famous for its totem poles. They are in their way as significant as the obelisks of Egypt, for they are indeed most fearfully and wonderfully carved to immortalize the achievements of some proud Indian family. If tradition says that a great great-grandfather killed a bear, the dead or dying bear is pictured upon the scroll of fame. The tribe is indicated by a figure at the extreme top, the family history follows in these peculiar hieroglyphics of the Indian, and after weeks of patient and perhaps loving toil, the proud descendant of an historic race rears aloft this emblem of family greatness.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

REINDEER AT SEATTLE.—These reindeer, which were in Woodland Park, Seattle, when the photograph was taken, were shipped from Lapland by the United States Relief Expedition, about which so much was said in the newspapers. The herd of reindeer alone cost the United States government $50,000. Besides the 537 reindeer the relief expedition brought 418 reindeer sleds, 511 sets of harness, and between 3,000 and 4,000 bags of moss, the only food the reindeer had on the voyage. The herd of reindeer was purchased by the government, and were intended to be used for the relief of the miners of the Yukon; but the alarming reports of starvation which had been spread about, were found to be without foundation.

La ' he, Photo, Seattle, Wash

LAPLANDERS AND CHILDREN.—These people are the reindeer herders and drivers with their wives and children. They all accompanied the reindeer from their native land. The party included forty-three Laplanders, ten Finns and fifteen Norwegians. Among the herders are some celebrities. Sam Johannson Baltic is a Lap, who crossed Greenland with Nansen, and wears a medal given him by King Oscar II. Also among them is the northernmost mail carrier in the world, John Peter Scalogare, a Finn. He has carried the mail on his back for eight years to Cape Norway, five degrees north of the Arctic Circle. Although these people are mostly short and stumpy, they are very strong and hardy, with powerful limbs.



Copyright, 1897, by La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

THE GRAVE OF KUCK-SHAW, TAGISH CHIEF.—On the occasion f a friendly visit to the Chilkoots, this chief drank so immoderately in celebration of the event that it killed him. After the photographer had made this view of the grave which is remarkably well cared for by the Chilkoots, the widow of the chief grasped him by the arm and dragged him into an adjoining cabin, where she eagerly exhibited an official letter from a government naval officer recommending her to the benevolently inclined as the widow of one who had always been a firm friend of the white man. Some one has playfully put a bullet through an upper pane of glass; while the clock, which can be seen in the window, chronicles the passage of time alike for the living and the dead.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

INDIAN CABINS AT YAAS BAY.—These are the homes of employes of the adjoining cannery, which furnishes the principal occupation for nearly all of the Indians in this section during the season. They are found to be more reliable workmen than the Indians in the United States. The men are mostly engaged in catching the fish, the squaws in canning them, while Chinamen make the cans. All steamships in Alaskan parts are very largely loaded and unloaded by Indians, and they are regularly employed in various duties. The people here are rather primitive in their habits and habitations, but live their simple lives undisturbed by the tumult and toil of fortune, fame or fashion; and peace and sweet content are frequently found in their midst.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

ALASKAN SCHOOL CHILDREN.—These children are natives of Port Clarence, and when the photograph was taken they were en route to the Indian school at Carlisle, Pa. Although the natives are spoken of as Indians they are different from the red men of the United States in appearance, habits and customs. One can easily believe them to be of Japanese origin. They have a Mongolian cast of features, and, unlike our Indians, they are naturally intelligent with industrious habits, keen in trade, with good mechanical ideas and quick to learn, while some are very skillful in carving wood, bone and metal. Their greatest resemblance to ordinary Indians is their profound superstition. Some of their beliefs are really extraordinary.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

INDIAN MERCHANTS AT TREADWELL MINES.—For ten years the people of the United States seemingly never thought of the native races of Alaska. Governor Brady states that in 1877 the cry for help went up, even from the military officers. It was responded to, feebly at first, but more earnestly and generously year by year for the past twenty years. Everywhere the missionaries found the natives practicing witchcraft in all its cruel forms. Almost every manifestation of human depravity met their gaze as they went among them. This has been largely changed, and where the missions have been well conducted, the change has been from darkness to light. Now, the Argonaut finds the native can figure as quickly as he can himself.

La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

HOME FROM THE KLONDIKE.—One need not have a very active fancy to imagine the sensation caused in Seattle when the first ship loads of returning Klondikers arrived. The fame of the Klondike had preceded them, and many of the newly made mining kings found that the trumpet blasts of fame had forestalled them in every corner of this wide land. Not only were the returned miners besieged with inquiries as to the truth of the many reports about the gold fields, that had gone forth, but countless would-be imitators besought them for small favors, such as advice that would enable them to lay hands on the most available Eldorado, and sometimes even the temporary loan of enough money to take them to the land of placer mining,

LATEST MAP
OF THE
KLONDIKE MINING DISTRICT

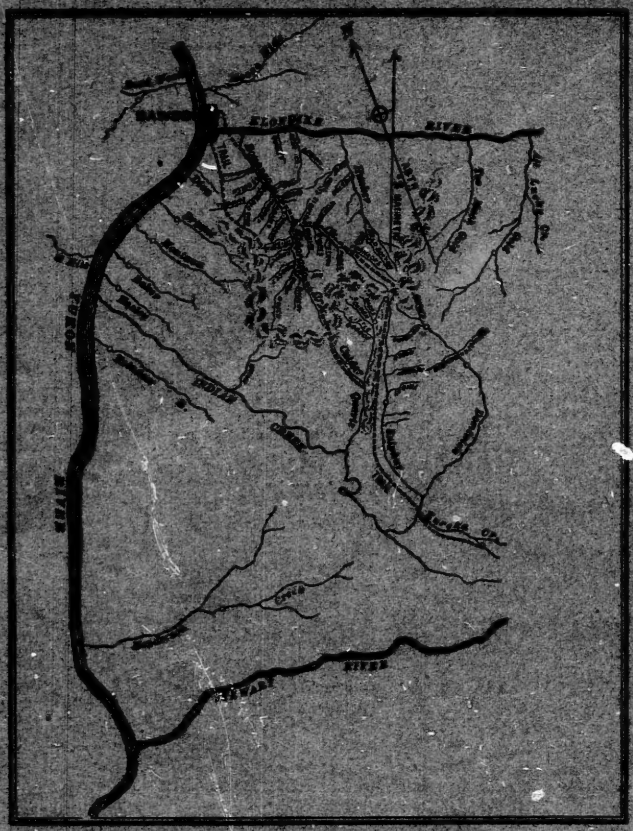


TABLE OF DISTANCES FROM DAWSON.

Stewart River	About [illegible] miles		Sulphur Creek	About 40 miles	
Henderson Creek	" [illegible] "		Dominion "	" [illegible] "	
Indian "	" [illegible] "		El Dorado "	" 15 "	
Montana "	" 8 "		Hunker "	" 25 "	
Bryant "	" 6 "		Moose Hide "	" 2½ "	
Eureka "	" 70 "		Dead Wood "	" 4 "	
Quartz "	" [illegible] "		Bonanza "	" 2 "	

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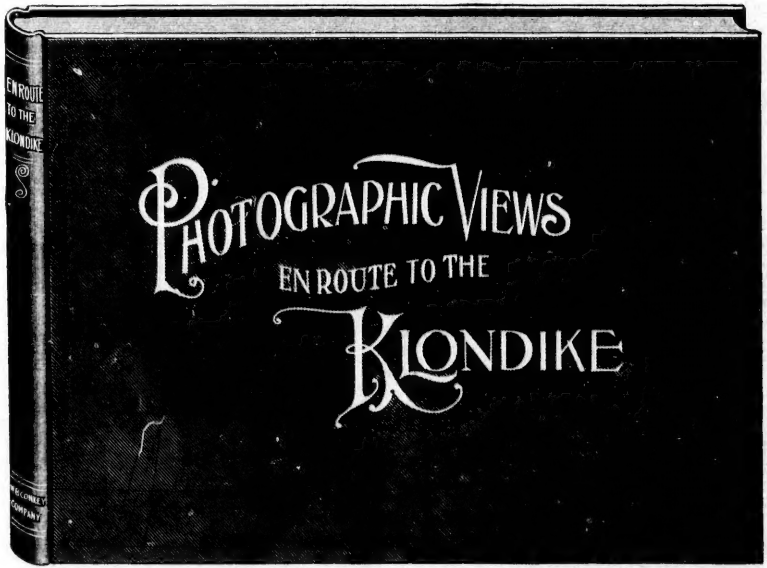

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